

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1062

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, CI, UN

SUBJ: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: POSSIBLE CHILEAN VOLUNTARY
FUND

REF: GENEVA 2243

1. THE EMBASSY NOTES THE INSISTENT EFFORTS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CHILE TO BECOME CHAIRMAN OF A TRUST FUND TO AID CHILEANS IN TROUBLE WITH THE REGIME (PARA 2 REFTEL). WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF A COPY OF THE WORKING GROUP'S CURRENT REPORT, WE ARE NOT SURE JUST WHAT ALLANA HAS IN MIND FOR THE FUND AND HOW DETAILED THE SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS OPERATIONS HAVE BECOME. WE ARE ALSO NOT CLEAR WHETHER, WHEN OR BY WHAT PROCEDURAL STEPS SUCH A FUND MIGHT COME INTO EXISTENCE, PARTICULARLY WHETHER THIS COULD BE BEFORE OR ONLY AFTER THE NEXT UNGA.

2. THE 1977 UNGA RESOLUTION CALLED FOR THE WORKING GROUP TO PRESENT TO THE 33RD UNGA "SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON POSSIBLE HUMANITARIAN, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL AID TO THOSE ARBITRARILY ARRESTED OR IMPRISONED, TO THOSE FORCED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND THEIR RELATIVES." THE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH REFERRING TO THE FUND IS MORE LIMITED IN SCOPE BUT MORE SPECIFIC AS TO
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STRUCTURE: "A VOLUNTARY FUND TO RECEIVE CONTRIBUTIONS AND DISTRIBUTE, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF AN INDEPENDENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES, HUMANITARIAN AND FINANCIAL AID TO THOSE DETAINED OR IMPRISONED IN CHILE." PRESUMABLY "THESE RECOMMENDATIONS" MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE 33RD UNGA WHICH WILL TAKE ACTION WHICH CANNOT NOW BE FORESEEN.

3. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT THE GOC POUNCED ON THESE REFERENCES IN THE 1977 UNGA RESOLUTION TO ENLIST SUPPORT LEADING TO PINOCHET'S PLEBISCITE VICTORY JANUARY 4. AS FAR AS THE GOC AND A GREAT MANY CHILEANS ARE CONCERNED SUCH ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IF ADMINISTERED THROUGH A DISCRETE FUND, WOULD CONSTITUTE CONTINUING AND BLATANT INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL CHILEAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS BY AIDING EXILED POLITICAL OPPOSITION. AS SUCH IT WOULD BE GRIST FOR THE POLITICAL HARD-LINERS AND ULTRA-NATIONALISTS MORE GENERALLY. NOR IS IT CLEAR THAT POLITICAL MODERATES, OPPOSED TO THE PRESENT REGIME BUT SEEKING AN ORDERLY AND SPEEDED-UP TRANSITION TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, WOULD GAIN. BY AN LARGE THEY NOW HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FUNDS FROM POLITICAL ALLIES ABROAD. IF THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO STRENGTHEN THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION VIS-A-VIS THE PRESENT REGIME, IT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FAIL. WE QUESTION WHETHER THE WORKING GROUP, THE HRC AND THE UNGA SHOULD PURSUE THIS COURSE, AND EVEN MORE WHETHER THE USG SHOULD LEND ANY SUPPORT. THE CURRENT EFFORTS OF THE USDEL TO STRENGTHEN THE WORK OF THE HRC BY APPLYING EQUAL STANDARDS TO ALL COUNTRIES WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT IF THE PRECEDENT OF A SPECIAL FUND TO AID EXILE GROUPS ONLY FROM CHILE IS ESTABLISHED.

4. WE THINK THERE IS A BETTER WAY TO HANDLE THE LEGITIMATE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF CHILEANS HERE AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. MOST OF THE OBJECTIVES MENTIONED IN THE UNGA RESOLUTION (RELIEF FOR RELATIVES OF THOSE DETAINED, AND RESETTLEMENT AND ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS) ALREADY FALL IN THE BAILIWICKS OF
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EXISTING AGENCIES SUCH AS THE ICRC, UNHRC AND ICEM. THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE IN CONDUCTION SPECIAL PROGRAMS UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND, INDEED, THE ICRC AND ICEM HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN CHILE. IF ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS REQUIRED AND IF IT IS BELIEVED NECESSARY THAT FUTURE CHILE RESOLUTIONS REFER TO THIS NEED, THEN THE CALL SHOULD BE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO EXISTING HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS. IN PRACTICE SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS MAY WELL SERVE POLITICAL AS WELL AS HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES. BUT THE ABILITY OF THE GOC TO CHARGE OVERT AND DISCRIMINATORY POLITICAL INTERVENTION WOULD BE MARKEDLY LESS.

5. AS REPORTED SANTIAGO 1022 WE HAVE URGED THE GOC DELEGATION TO THE HRC TO FIND A FORMULA THAT WILL PERMIT AN ON-SITE VISIT BY MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP. BUT, AS SEEN FROM HERE, IT IS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOC WILL EVER AGREE TO WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN ALLANA FORMING PART OF THAT MISSION. HIS CURRENT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HIMSELF AS HEAD OF A SPECIAL TRUST FUND THAT DOES NOT YET EXIST CAN ONLY CONFIRM THE GOC CONVICTION THAT ALLANA IS UNREDEEMABLY BIASED. WE URGE THE USDEL AND OTHER COUNTRIES SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN FINALLY GETTING THE WORKING GROUP TO CHILE NOT TO MAKE THE INCLUSION OF ALLANA A NECESSARY

CONDITION.
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